TL1994

The
# GLEITSMAN FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Larry Winokur
310.277.6200

## JOSE RAMOS-HORTA TO RECEIVE GLEITSMAN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL ACTIVIST AWARD

### Independence Advocate for East Timor To Share $100,000 Prize With Renowned Nazi Hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld

*Los Angeles (July 10, 1995)* -- As we approach the 20th anniversary of the invasion of East Timor by Indonesia, independence advocate **Jose Ramos-Horta** will be honored with the Gleitsman Foundation International Activist Award in a press conference and ceremony to take place at the Biblioteca Timor in Lisbon, Portugal, on Friday, July 14. Ramos-Horta will share the $100,000 prize with prominent Nazi hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld, who will be honored two days later in Paris.

Commenting on the choice of Ramos-Horta, Foundation president Alan L. Gleitsman said: "For twenty years Mr. Ramos-Horta has fought for the people of East Timor in their struggle for freedom. His courage and commitment have won the support of the United Nations and, hopefully, will soon help secure the rightful independence of his country."

A journalist by trade, Jose Ramos-Horta rose to international attention after the withdrawal of Portugal from East Timor in 1975. When the country's

(more)

P.O. BOX 6888, MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90264
TELEPHONE 310 • 457•6199 FAX 310 • 457•8324

largest political party, Fretelin, took power and declared East Timor independent, the new government appointed the 25-year-old journalist as its first Minister of External Relations.

On December 7, 1975, while Ramos-Horta was in the process of presenting his country's credentials before the United Nations in New York, Indonesia invaded East Timor. Though he persuaded the Security Council to pass a unanimous resolution reaffirming the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination, Indonesia refused to withdraw its troops. Subsequent resolutions passed by the U.N. General Assembly have also been ignored. Through the tireless efforts of Ramos-Horta, however, progress is being made and in May of this year, 30 East Timorese representatives met in Austria, in a meeting sponsored by the United Nations, and agreed on a unanimous declaration calling for continuing UN mediation to resolve the conflict.

Today, Jose Ramos-Horta serves as special representative of the imprisoned East Timorese leader, Xanana Gusmao, and as head of diplomatic activities of the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNMR).

Established by former business executive Alan L. Gleitsman in 1989, The Gleitsman Foundation is a non-profit organization that recognizes and promotes social activism worldwide. The Foundation sponsors three main awards -- international, domestic and student -- while also encouraging myriad grassroots organizations.

The International Activist Award is designed to honor activist achievement throughout the world, excluding the U.S., and is presented in alternating years with the Citizen Activist Award. A $100,000 award is shared by two recipients,

(more)

who also receive a commemorative sculpture designed by Maya Lin, the creator of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC. Among those serving on its Board of Judges are physicist and human rights activist Fang Lizhi, former United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Nobel Peace Prize winners Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu and Adolfo Perez Esquivel. In 1993 the award was presented to Chinese democracy advocate Wei Jingsheng and African National Congress president Nelson Mandela.

The Citizen Activist Award, established in 1989, honors those who have challenged social injustice in the U.S. Among those serving on the Citizen Activist Award Board of Judges are Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and psychiatrist Dr. Robert Coles, actor and environmentalist Ted Danson, civil rights attorney Morris Dees Jr., Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) founder Candy Lightner, political activist and philanthropist Stanley K. Sheinbaum and feminist leader Gloria Steinem. Last year's winners were veteran consumer activist Ralph Nader and Teach For America founder Wendy Kopp.

# # #